

would concentrate in the area of the Main Lighthouse and the Biological Research Station. In the latter spot they selected the army tower and appeared to use updraughts from the structure for soaring.

I noticed that the birds forked their tails when pulling up suddenly or in making steep turns. At all other times the tail appeared straight. The white rump was conspicuous whenever the birds turned. The weather at the time was extremely hot, with very strong easterly winds.

—PETER McMILLAN, Guildford.

Recovery of a Ringed Pacific Gull in Western Australia.—On October 29, 1961, I ringed a young Pacific Gull (*Larus pacificus*), which was able to run but not to fly, on Middle Cervantes Island. On June 12, 1962, this individual (bearing C.S.I.R.O. band no. 110-02001 and the only Pacific Gull so far banded by me) was found alive and healthy by Mr. I. Condon, Fisheries Officer, in Geraldton harbour, 120 miles north of the banding point.

From 1959 to 1962, during a survey of the coastal islands between Dongara and Lancelin, it was found that solitary pairs of Pacific Gulls occur on Favourite, Middle Essex, Middle Cervantes and Buller Islands. These four pairs of adult birds appear to be strictly sedentary, and in fact, each pair shows great tenacity to the island on which it breeds. The recovery indicates, however, that immature birds wander a considerable distance from their natal areas.

—JULIAN FORD, Attadale.

A Note on the Life History of *Metalea puncticeps* Mall (Family Calliphoridae).—While collecting at Culham, W.A., in May 1960, nests of the termite *Tumulitermes petilus* (Hill) were investigated. From the tunnels of one of these nests, situated beneath a stone, five larvae of the fly *Metalea puncticeps* were collected.

Three of the larvae were a waxen white in colour, about half an inch long and very sluggish. They were found in upper galleries near the edge of the stone, possibly at points of emergence. The other two larvae were a pale yellow and very active; they were in a gallery filled with litter on which was growing a white mould.

The five larvae were placed in an observation jar on May 26, 1960. On May 29 the three white specimens had turned to pupae and the two yellow ones had become sluggish and changed to a waxen white; on June 4 these turned to pupae. On June 30 all the specimens emerged.

Observations made on the larvae in the nest indicated that the termites accepted their presence. The termite colony, as would be expected, had been very much upset with the removal of their protecting roof. Generally under these circumstances soldiers readily attack aliens. In this case the *Metalea* larvae moved freely among the termites and no attempt at attack was made on them at any time.

The active larvae in the litter appeared to be feeding on the white mould. Examination of the gut contents (stained with Cotton

Blue), of a specimen collected in May 1961, showed fungal hyphae to be present.

In May 1961 I confirmed the presence of larvae in other nests of *Tumulitermes petilus* in the same area, four more larvae being collected. In August 1961 many empty pupal cases were found, and two larvae which were small and watery white in colour. They were very active and failed to develop in an observation jar.

I wish to thank Dr. S. J. Paramonov, Division of Entomology, C.S.I.R.O., Canberra, for identification of the adult flies, and Mr. F. Gay of the same institution for identifying the termites.

—PETER McMILLAN, Guildford.

Birds of Prey Observed During a Train Journey Across the Nullarbor Plain.—On December 5, 1961, I left Port Pirie by train in continuation of my journey from Melbourne to Perth. I did not awaken next morning until the train had passed Watson, but from then on, except for three short intervals for breakfast and lunch and for a sleep in between, I was looking out of the window to the north of the railway line continually. This was how I came to notice a number of birds of prey which (with one exception) seemed to be flying steadily east at fairly regular intervals. Except for the interruptions mentioned above I kept watch until 1800 hours, but saw no more birds after 1535 hours. The following is my record of the birds seen, except that I have omitted those which were too far away to be recognised.

Time (Western Standard)	Approximate Locality	No. of Birds	Species	Direction of Flight
0735-0846	Between Watson and Cook	e. 10	Australian Goshawk	East
0940	Between Hughes and Reid	1	Kestrel	East
1010	Between Reid and Forrest	Sev.	Kestrel	East
1055	Between Forrest and Mundrabilla	1	Kestrel	East
1100	Between Mundrabilla and Loongana	1	Wedge-tailed Eagle	West
1100	do.	2	Kestrel	East
1105	do.	2	Kestrel	East
1112	do.	1	Kestrel	East
1117	do.	1	Kestrel	East
No count until 1200 hours				
1200	Loongana	2	Kestrel	East
1225	Between Loongana and Nurina	2	Kestrel	East
1240	Between Nurina and Haig	2	Kestrel	East
		1	Australian Goshawk	East
		2	Brown Hawk	East
Lunchtime				
1330	Between Haig and Rawlinna	2	Whistling Eagle	East
1340	do.	1	Kestrel	East
1350	Between Haig and Rawlinna	2	Crow/Raven	East
1445	Between Naretha and Kitchener	1	Kestrel	East
1500	do.	Several Brown Hawks, Kestrels and Crow/Ravens perched on telegraph poles.		
1520	do.	1	Peregrine	Perched
1535	do.	1	Brown Hawk	Perched